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SOUTH MOLTON
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Annual Report

OF THE
Medical Officer of Health
AND THE
Sanitary Inspector

FOR THE
Year ended December 31st, 1951



F. J. H. MARTIN,
M.R.C.S. (Eng.), L.R.C.P. (Lond.), D.P.H. (Oxon.),
Medical Officer of Health.

113, East Street,
South Molton,
June, 1952.

To the Chairman and Members of the
South Molton Rural District Council.


Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Loosemore and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report
on the Health and Sanitary Administration of the
Rural District for the year 1951.

Your obedient Servant,

F. J. H. MARTIN,
M.R.C.S. (Eng.), L.R.C.P. (Lond.), D.P.H. (Oxon),

Medical Officer of Health.



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ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF
HEALTH FOR THE SOUTH MOLTON RURAL
DISTRICT COUNCIL

For the year ended December 31st, 1951

LIST OF STAFF.

The Staff of the Public Health Department consists of:—

Part-time Officers:—

F. J. H. MARTIN,

M.R.C.S. (Eng.), L.R.C.P. (Lond.), D.P.H. (Oxon)

Medical Officer of Health.

Mrs. ELWORTHY, Clerk.

Whole-time Officers:—

W. H. KARSLAKE, M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

Chief Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor.

A. J. C. NEX, M.S.I.A.,

Additional Sanitary Inspector from June, 1951.

Miss M. LOCK, Clerk.

Statistic and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area in acres	...	...	...	...	117,432
Population (estimated to mid year)	...	...	...	...	9,207
Inhabited Houses	...	...	...	...	2,810
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	£29,780
Sum represented by a penny rate	...	...	...	...	£126

Vital Statistics.

		Males	Females	Totals
LIVE BIRTHS—Legitimate	...	65	54	119
Illegitimate	...	3	2	5
				<hr/> 124

Rate per 1,000 population 13'4

		Males	Females	Totals
STILL BIRTHS—Legitimate	...	2	3	5
Illegitimate	...	0	0	0
				<hr/> 5

Rate per 1,000 total Live and Still Births 38'7

		Males	Females	Total
DEATHS	... ..	60	57	117

Death rate per 1,000 population 12'7

Deaths from Puerperal Causes.

Puerperal Sepsis	...	...	...	0
Other Puerperal Causes	...	...	...	0

Deaths of Infants under 1 year.

		Males	Females	Totals
Legitimate	... ..	0	3	3
Illegitimate	... ..	0	0	0
				<hr/> 3

Rate per 1,000 Live Births 24'1

Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	...	...	0
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	...	0
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	...	...	...	0

Below is appended a Table that shows the comparative figures for South Molton Rural District and England and Wales.

The Birth and Death Rates are shown corrected by the area comparability factors.

Rate per 1,000 population.			Death Rate per 1,000	Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births	
	Live Births	Still Births		Deaths under 1 year	Deaths from Diarrhoea and Enteritis under 2 years
South Molton R.D. ...	15.4	.54	11.1	24.1	0
England and Wales ...	15.5	.36	12.5	29.6	1.4

Causes of Death during the year 1951.

					Males	Females
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	0	1
Tuberculosis (non-pulmonary)	...	...	...	...	1	0
Syphilitic Disease	...	...	...	...	1	0
Malignant Neoplasm of stomach	...	...	...	...	0	2
Malignant Neoplasm of lung and bronchus	...	...	...	...	2	2
Malignant Neoplasm of breast	...	...	...	...	0	2
Malignant Neoplasm of uterus	...	...	...	...	0	3
Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	...	...	...	...	7	6
Leukaemia	...	...	...	...	1	0
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	...	...	...	...	6	8
Coronary Disease angina	...	...	...	...	3	0
Other Heart Diseases	...	...	...	...	13	18
Other Circulatory Disease	...	...	...	...	2	1
Influenza	...	...	...	...	6	3
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	1	3
Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	1	0
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	...	...	...	...	1	1
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	...	...	...	...	2	1
Nephritis	...	...	...	...	2	0
Hyperplasia of Prostate	...	...	...	...	1	0
Congenital Malformations	...	...	...	...	0	1
Other defined and ill defined Diseases	...	...	...	...	7	5
Motor Vehicle Accidents	...	...	...	...	2	0
Suicide	...	...	...	...	1	0
					60	57

Cases of Infectious Diseases notified in 1951 (in age groups, excluding Tuberculosis)

AGE Years	Measles		Whooping Cough		Scarlet Fever		Pneumonia		Acute Polio Myelitis	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0-1 ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
1-2 ...	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
2-3 ...	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
3-4 ...	2	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
4-5 ...	2	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
5-10 ...	2	1	—	—	2	—	—	1	1	—
10-15 ...	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
15-20 ...	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
20-25 ...	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25-30 ...	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
30-40 ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS -	9	8	3	2	2	1	2	1	1	1 = 30

I append a Table showing the distribution of Infectious Diseases notified in 1951 (excluding Tuberculosis)

	Measles	Whooping Cough	Pneumonia	Scarlet Fever	Acute Polio Myelitis
Charles ...	—	1	—	—	—
Chittlehamholt ...	1	—	—	—	—
Chittlehampton ...	1	—	—	—	—
Chulmleigh ...	4	—	—	3	1
East Anstey ...	3	—	—	—	—
East Worlington ...	1	—	—	—	1
Filleigh ...	2	—	1	—	—
Knowstone ...	2	—	1	—	—
Molland ...	1	—	—	—	—
North Molton ...	—	4	—	—	—
Rackenford ...	1	—	—	—	—
West Anstey ...	1	—	—	—	—
West Buckland ...	—	—	1	—	—
TOTALS -	17	5	3	3	2 = 30

Acute Polio Myelitis.

Two case occurred during the year, a boy aged 7, and a girl aged 10 months, both were paralytic.

New Cases of Tuberculosis during the year 1951.

PULMONARY—Four Cases, the ages being 2, 45, 54 and 56 years.

NON PULMONARY—One Case, age 13 years.

General Provision of Health Services in the Area.

HOSPITALS.

1. TUBERCULOSIS.

Hawley Sanatorium situated in the Borough of Barnstaple has 29 beds.

2. MATERNITY CASES.

The Devon County Council are continuing to act as they did in 1949 as agents of the Regional Hospital Board until the Board has completed its own plans for the treatment of Maternity Cases.

There is also a Ward of 15 beds with a fully qualified staff, at the North Devon Infirmary, Barnstaple, available for maternity cases of doubt and difficulty.

A General Practitioners Maternity Unit of 13 beds opens at "Highfield", Victoria Road, Barnstaple, on March 1st, 1952.

3. ISOLATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Cases are sent either to Whipton Hospital, near Exeter, or to the Bideford Isolation Hospital, which is situated just outside the Borough of Bideford. This latter is of recent construction and well equipped in every way for the treatment of Infectious Diseases. It comprises 34 beds (6 of which are in observation cubicles) and 4 cots.

4. SMALL POX.

The Small Pox Hospital to which cases of Small Pox will be sent is at Upton Pine. Telephone to Isolation Hospital, Whipton, Exeter 67158 and this is the same number for the Ambulance.

5. GENERAL.

The South Molton and District Cottage Hospital situated in the Borough serves the area. There are 10 beds for General and Maternity cases.

The North Devon Infirmary situated in Barnstaple also serves the area and provides modern medical and surgical treatment.

In South Molton there are 29 beds available at Beech House for the Chronic Sick.

A Blood Bank has been established at the North Devon Infirmary.

6. CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES.

V.D. Clinic.—This is held at the Annex of the North Devon Infirmary, Barnstaple.

SESSIONS.		
	Female	Males
Mondays	- 4.0 p.m.	5.15 p.m.
Thursdays	- 4.30 p.m.	5.45 p.m.

CHEST CLINICS are held at North Devon Infirmary.

Tuesdays	- 9.0 a.m. - 1.0 p.m.	} Clinic and X-Ray Examinations
	2.0 p.m. - 4.0 p.m.	
Thursdays	- 9.0 a.m. - 1.0 p.m.	
	2.0 p.m. - 4.30 p.m.	
Fridays	- 9.0 a.m. - 1.0 p.m.	} A.P. refills.
	2.0 p.m. - 4.0 p.m.	

7. PROFESSIONAL NURSING IN THE HOMES.

There are nine Nurses in the area and two Health Visitors.

8. MIDWIVES.

There are nine Midwives in the area.

9. LABORATORY FACILITIES.

The main Laboratory is situated at 7, Dix's Field, Exeter and Dr. Moore is the Director. It is completely installed with the necessary equipment for bacteriological examinations of all kinds. Its diagnostic and consultative services are available for all patients.

Bacteriological examinations of drinking water and milk are also carried out.

The service is extremely valuable and is widely used by the Medical Practitioners.

The new Pathological Laboratory is now open at the former Barnstaple and North Devon Dispensary building with a full time Pathologist and Technical Staff to meet the needs of the whole North Devon Area.

10. IMMUNIZATION AGAINST DIPHTHERIA.

105 children received Primary Injections and 226 received Re-inforcing Injections.

11. VACCINATION.

There were 90 Vaccinations in the area, 62 were under 1 year of age, 6 between 1 and 4 years, 9 between 5 and 14 years, and 13 were 15 years or over.

12. AMBULANCE SERVICE.

Under Section 27 of the National Health Service Act, 1946, the Local Health Authority (*i.e.* the Devon County Council) is responsible for the provision of an Ambulance Service, and the Devon Health Committee have arranged for this to be provided through the agency of the St. John Ambulance Association. Under the scheme, an Ambulance Station has been established at South Molton. The District served is South Molton Borough and South Molton Rural District. The Hospital Car Service also under the Devon County Council is available on application to the Hospital, and the Ambulance Service is empowered to hire cars in urgent cases when an Ambulance is not necessary.

I desire to thank Mr. Willey and the Sanitary Inspectors for the help they have given to me.

F. J. H. MARTIN.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR AND SURVEYOR TO THE SOUTH MOLTON RURAL AREA

For the year ended 31st December, 1951.

Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Loosemore & Gentlemen,

I beg to present my first annual report relating to the work carried out during 1951.

General.

During the year the Borough and Rural District Councils have been operating a scheme for co-operation between the Surveyor's and Health Departments.

A filing system has been inaugurated in the department and although progress in bringing into the system correspondence etc. from the past, is slow, the advantages and saving in time are already very obvious.

Water.

The lack of adequate and satisfactory water supplies in the District is a matter for some concern, as the completion of the North Devon Water Board's scheme is likely to take many years. Considerable lengths of mains were laid during the year by the Board but water has not yet been connected to any part of the District from the new sources. It is hoped that supplies will be available to Kingsnympton, Georgenympton, Witheridge, Rackenford and Chittlehampton before the coming summer.

The table set out overleaf shows the number of houses connected directly to Public Mains, the estimated population served by this means, the number of houses served by standpipes and the estimated population served thereby.

PARISH		No. of Houses supplied from Public Mains	Estimated Population so served	No. of Houses supplied by Standpipes on Public Mains	Estimated Population so served
Bishopsnympton	...	83	291	19	67
Charles (Brayford)	...	24	84	—	—
Chulmleigh	...	235	823	—	—
Kingsnympton	...	62	217	1	4
North Molton	...	188	658	33	116
Rackenford	...	43	150	—	—
Witheridge	...	149	522	48	168

MOLLAND.—During the year a limestone contact filter was constructed on the private water supply for Molland Village owned by the Throckmorton Estates to counteract the action of the water on lead.

15 Samples of private supplies were taken during the year with the results as shown.

	Chemical	Chemical & Bacteriological	Bacteriological
Satisfactory	2	5	2
Unsatisfactory	1	—	5

147 Inspections were made in connection with water supplies.

Drainage and Sewerage.

No new Sewerage or Sewage Disposal Works were constructed during the year, but a distributing filter was constructed for treatment of the effluent from the septic tank serving the 8 Council Houses at Broomhill Villas, Brayford.

During the year a private contracting firm was employed to empty the settlement tanks at the Council Houses.

In May I reported that the six Sewage Disposal Schemes were all in need of repair and work has been commenced by direct labour to put the various works in order. The employment of part time Caretakers for plants such as those at North Molton and Witheridge is not entirely satisfactory, because the men are normally not free to spend sufficient time daily, throughout the year, at the Works.

The Consulting Engineers have not yet presented their schemes for Chulmleigh and Chittlehampton, and Chulmleigh remains the "black spot" in the District.

During the year, 2,090 visits and inspections were made, including:-

PUBLIC HEALTH.—Byelaws	...	...	...	237
Camping Sites	...	...	...	11
Drains tested	...	...	...	98
General Inspections	...	...	...	102
Infectious Disease	...	...	...	2
Complaints investigated	...	...	...	74
Schools	...	...	...	2
Sewers & Sewage Disposal Works	...	...	...	180
TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACTS	...	...	...	37
BUILDING LICENSING	...	...	...	11
FOOD AND DRUGS.—Section 13 Premises	...	...	...	178
Section 14 ditto	...	...	...	51
Meat and Food Inspection	...	...	...	7
HOUSING.—General Inspections including Council Houses	...	...	...	432
Overcrowding	...	...	...	3
Council Houses in course of erection and new Housing Sites	...	...	...	139
PETROLEUM REGULATIONS	...	...	...	38
DRAINAGE CARRIED OUT DURING THE YEAR.—				
New Drainage Disposal Systems constructed	...	...	...	22
E.C's. converted to W.C's....	...	...	...	16
New W.C's.	...	...	...	19
New Sewer Connections	...	...	...	5
New Baths installed	...	...	...	21

Public Cleansing.

The Central Refuse Collection Scheme has operated satisfactorily during the year although complaints are received from time to time from premises off the collection routes.

The refuse tip has been maintained in a reasonable condition but the quarry will be filled in about 18 months. Negotiations are being made to find a suitable tip for the use of the District and the Borough Council.

The Council discontinued street sweeping in Chulmleigh during the year.

Food and Drugs.

229 Inspections have been carried out during the year and considerable improvements have been made at many premises. Difficulty is experienced in a few cases because of lack of adequate water supply. The Council decided to adopt the Model Food Handling Byelaws on 20th September, but confirmation has not been received.

Slaughterhouses.

One Slaughterhouse was licensed during the year contrary to my advice but it is only used for casualties. No notifications of slaughter were received under the Public Health Meat Regulations.

Ice-Cream.

7 premises are registered for the storage and sale of ice-cream but there are no manufacturers in the District.

Meat.

11 $\frac{1}{4}$ lbs. of meat were found unfit for human consumption and surrendered for destruction.

Canned Foods Surrendered.

Tinned Ham	46	161 lbs.	4 ozs.
Baked Beans	5	2 „	8 „
Soup ...	5	3 „	7 „
Milk ...	2	1 lb.	0 „
Vegetables ...	2	2 „	3 „
Fruit ...	4	5 „	4 „
Sardines ...	1	—	4 „
Macaroni ...	1	1 lb.	0 „
Salad Dressing	1 jar	—	5 „

Bakehouses.

All the 10 Bakehouses were inspected during the year and works carried out or put in hand to remedy defects.

There are two Basement Bakehouses.

Factories Act, 1937.

52 Inspections were carried out of factories in the District. In 10 cases informal action was taken to remedy defects.

Housing.

20 houses were completed during the year by the Council and on the Rackenford site 4 garages were erected for use by the tenants.

3 houses were completed by private enterprise and work was commenced on converting the Buttery at Newnham Barton, Chulmleigh, into two cottages.

Work was in progress on sites at Witheridge, Chulmleigh and Molland.

In 15 houses repairs were carried out as a result of informal action under the Housing and Public Health Acts.

Building Licensing.

17 Applications were received for building licenses, 17 licenses were granted, including one carried over from 1950, and 1 refused.

Planning and Byelaws.

74 Plans were received for consideration under the Building Byelaws, 73 were approved and 1 rejected.

37 Plans were received for consideration under the Town and Country Planning Act, 36 were approved, 2 refused, and 3 carried forward.

W. H. KARSLAKE, M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor.



